

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEDELL 00307 041921Z

47

ACTION ARA-20

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CO, PINS

SUBJ: NEW RECTOR OF UNIV. OF ANTIOQUIA, PROFESSORS WIN GAINS IN
MEDIATION

REF: MEDELLIN 0300

1. FOLLOWING MEDIATION BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BETWEEN PROFESSORS AND THE UNIV. OF ANTIOQUIA ADMINISTRATION TO: (A) REOPEN THE U OF A OCT 2 AND RECOMMENCE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS OCT 3, (B) REINSTATE WITHOUT PREJUDICE ALL PROFESSORS SUSPENDED OR FIRED BY THE U OF A DIRECTIVE COUNCIL TWO WEEKS AGO, AND (C) REPEAL THE CONTENTIOUS TEACHING STATUTE. THE ABOVE ACTIONS WERE ALL DEMANDED BY THE PROFESSORS ASSOCIATION AND REPRESENT A MAJOR VICTORY FOR THE GROUP. THE MOVE TO DEROGATE THE TEACHING STATUTE SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED A RETURN TO THE 1971 TEACHING REGULATIONS, CONSIDERED TO AFFORD SUBSTANTIALLY LESS UNIVERSITY CONTROL OVER PROFESSORS.

2. MEANWHILE, GOV. ECHAVARRIA ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW RECTOR: LUIS EDUARDO MESA VELASQUEZ. MESA VELASQUEZ, CURRENTLY A MAGISTRATE ON THE SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE IN BOGOTA, GRADUATED FROM U OF A IN 1950 IN LAW AND TAUGHT THERE FOR 10 YEARS UNTIL 1968. A LIBERAL, MESA HAS ALSO TAUGHT IN THE BOLIVARIANA UNIV IN MEDELLIN AND IN THE EXTERNADO AND GRAN COLOMBIA UNIVERSITIES IN BOGOTA& IN UNCLASSIFIED

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ADDITION HE HAS SERVED AS SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT IN ANTIOQUIA. HIS

APPOINTMENT HAS BEEN WELL-RECEIVED BY UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS, THE NEWS MEDIA AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

3. THE UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS ASSOCIATION, HOWEVER, HAS ALREADY DIRECTLY ATTACKED THE NEW RECTOR FOR HAVING ACCEPTED THE POST WITHOUT CONSULTING WITH STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS, FOR HAVING EXPRESSED PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR EX-RECTOR DUQUE IN 1973 AND FOR HAVING QTE REPRESSED END QTE STUDENTS AS SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT IN 1966. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE PROFESSOR S INITIAL HOSTILITY TO MESA WILL LEAD TO EARLY CONFRONTATION. THE STUDENTS THUS FAR HAVE ISSUED NO STATEMENT CONCERNING THE NEW RECTOR.
COOPER

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